

Message Text

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63 S
ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05

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R 041540Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0108
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0828

LIMDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, MU, PFOR, SA
SUBJ: SULTAN QABOOS VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF : STATE 16451

1. AS WE HAD DETECTED NO PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE DETAILS OF THE QABOOS VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND ESPECIALLY AS THE QUESTION OF A U.S. "BASE" AT MASIRAH ISLAND AND U.S. ARMS SALES TO OMAN HAD NOT BECOME ISSUES HERE, WE DECIDED THAT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL FOR A BRIEFING ON THE VISIT WAS THE NEWLY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF GULF AFFAIRS AMBASSADOR SHUBAYLI.

2. SHUBAYLI WAS APPRECIATIVE OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AND OFFERED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

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(A) THE SAG IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE OMAN GOVERNMENT,

UKG AND USG WORK OUT FOR THE USE OF FACILITIES ON MASIRAH ISLAND. IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE SHADOW OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ARABS THE SAG WOULD HAVE NO SENSITIVITY ON THIS SUBJECT AT ALL. IN FACT IT WOULD WELCOME A U.S. BASE IN OMAN.

(B) HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD U.S. DESIRE NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE DHOFAR WAR, BUT THOUGHT IT MIGHT NOT BE A BAD IDEA IF WE DID. THE WAR SHOULD HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO A CONCLUSION A LONG TIME AGO AND COULD HAVE BEEN IF THE BRITISH DID NOT FIND IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO PERPETUATE THE PRESENT SITUATION. THEY PROFIT FROM THE TENSION AND RESULTING RELIANCE ON UK ADVISORS. THEY ALSO DON'T WANT TOO DECISIVE AN OUTCOME LEST IT HARM THEIR INTERESTS IN THE PDRY. CONTINUED RELIANCE ON A STRATEGY OF LOOKING TO FRIENDLY REGIONAL STATES FOR ASSISTANCE IN ENDING THE WAR IS ALSO NOT LIKELY TO BE VERY EFFICACIOUS (SHUBAYLI'S REFERENCES TO IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT WERE EMOTIONALLY NEUTRAL).

(C) THE SAG IS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT US ARMS SALES TO THE OMAN GOV. FOR REASONS NOTED ABOVE SHUBAYLI SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE THE U.S. DISPLACE THE UK IN OMAN. HE SAID THE U.S. SHOULD NOT ONLY DO MORE IN THE MILITARY FIELD BUT ALSO IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE WAS PLEASED WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE SULTAN WAS SATISFIED WITH OUR EFFORTS IN THIS AREA (PARA 4 REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: THE REAL AUTHORITY ON OMAN WITHIN THE SAUDI ESTABLISHMENT IS MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN. HE HAS BEEN VACATIONING IN THE DESERT AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL MORE WEEKS. WHEN HE RETURNS TO CIRCULATION WE WILL BE PREPARED TO BRIEF HIM ALSO IF HE EXPRESSES ANY INTEREST.

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